

# Moses fights back against gas price gouging



Representative  
Moses

Fuel retailers who take advantage of public fears after emergencies to artificially inflate gas prices will be penalized through a new law passed by the Indiana General Assembly this year.

House Bill 1015 permits the Indiana attorney general to investigate and take action against retailers who engage in fuel price gouging. The bill was signed into law by Governor Frank O'Bannon.

House Bill 1015 came into being as a result of public concerns expressed in the wake of the tragedies that took place on September 11, 2001. At a time when most Americans were coming together as a country to face down the threat of terrorism, a few greedy people decided to use the emergency as a chance to make extra profits.

In the days after the attacks, many state officials like myself heard numerous complaints from citizens upset that some dealers were charging exorbitant prices for gasoline. Reports indicated that customers were being asked to pay

as much as \$5 per gallon.

Through this law, the attorney general will have the ability to investigate complaints of price



gouging and seek relief against those parties found guilty.

Penalties could include fines of up to

\$1,000 per transaction and restitution for victims of price gouging.

The attorney general also will make information about complaints of price gouging available to the general public, although the data will not identify particular people or locations.

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There is nothing more reprehensible than the actions of those who consider emergencies a prime opportunity to

line their own pockets. After September 11th, we were able to send many positive messages to our young people about standing up against evil in this world. Through the passage of House Bill 1015, we provide a warning that we will not tolerate attempts to prey on the fears of others.

# Cut out the clutter!

There are many opportunities to block unsolicited information. See the items below to reduce clutter in many forms.



## Unsolicited mail

Contacting the three major credit bureaus is an important first step in reducing unwanted mail. Write to each of the bureaus listed below and indicate that you do not want your personal information shared for promotional purposes.

Equifax, Inc.

Options

PO Box 740123

Atlanta, GA 30374-0123

Experian

Consumer Opt-Out

701 Experian Parkway

Allen, TX 75013

Trans Union

Marketing List Opt Out

PO Box 97328

Jackson, MS 39288-7328

## Pre-approved credit offers

If you would like to opt out of receiving pre-approved credit offers, call 1-888-5-OPTOUT (567-8688) for more information. This service blocks your name from these offers for two years.

## National direct mail and telemarketing

The Direct Marketing Association (DMA) provides an opt out list from national direct mail marketing and telemarketing. Your registration on the list is valid for five years. Unlike Indiana's Telephone Privacy List, which makes it illegal to contact names on the list, direct marketing companies *voluntarily* comply with the DMA's list.

To have your name deleted from many direct mail or telemarketing lists, write to:

Direct Marketing Association

Mail Preference Service

PO Box 9008

Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

Direct Marketing Association

Telephone Preference Service

PO Box 9014

Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

## E-mail

The DMA also provides an e-mail opt out list. Go to their online form at [www.e-mps.org](http://www.e-mps.org) to register. They will send a confirmation of your request by e-mail. The service is effective for one year.

## Representative Win Moses



Indiana House of Representatives

200 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204

H81@in.gov

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PAID  
Indiana House of  
Representatives